(REVISED)

REPRESENTATIONS OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER QUEER IN MODERN INDIAN ENGLISH NOVELS

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SYNOPSIS

Introduction:

Queer Theory is a field of critical theory that emerged in the early 1990s out of the field of queer studies and women studies. Queer theory includes both queer readings of texts and the theorization of queerness itself. Heavily influenced by the work of Lauren Berlant, Leo Bersani, Judith Butler, Lee Edleman, Jack Halberstam and Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, queer theory builds upon feminist challenges to idea that gender is a part of essential self and upon gay/lesbian studies close examination of the socially constructed nature of sexual acts and identities.

Queer literature is new trend in Indian English Writing. It presents LGBTQ literary panorama in India. It roots in the literary tradition and Indian philosophy. The Indian traditional literature is so ripe with sexually ambiguous characters. The writers like Ruth Vanita, Devdutt Patnaik, Suniti Namjoshi, R. Raj Rao played vital role in this concern of LGBTQ. Indian society doesn't accept an idea of homosexuality. The Indians think that same – sex – love relationship is a western concept. Homosexuality, same- sex- love has been a part of past Indian culture. Arjuna and the Lord Narada are fine examples of transgender from ancient epic, Mahabharata. Kamsutra is also early reference of lesbianism. The female novelists like Kamala Das, Shobha De, Ruth Vanita, Suniti Namjoshi, Mala Kumar, Abha Dawesar have contributed for Queer Literature.

Queer people are segregated from society as well as their own family. They are mistreated. They struggle for search of identity. Society must respect their feelings. They are also human beings. They have also right to live

A. Rationale and Significance of the Study :

GLBT or often known as LGBT is an acronym of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender. LGBT can be referred to as initialism which is intended to highlight gender identity-based cultures and diversity of sexuality. The term is generally used to refer those who are not straight or non-heterosexual or non-cisgender. The term universally do not mean for the straight people or heterosexuals or cisgenders but it is also not intended exclusively for the people who are gay, lesbian, transgender or bisexual.

Numerous research studies outcome says that there exist some individuals or group of people who are neither heterosexual nor they are anyone of the initialism LGBT. One popular variant adds the letter 'Q' to the initialism of LGBT in order to identify this incorporation. The rationale behind adding this letter of 'Q' is to recognize those who are indicated as queer or are questioning about their sexual identity. The umbrella term queer is used for sexual and gender minorities who are not considered as heterosexual or cisgender. The original meaning of queer is disparagingly used against those who have desires of same sex or have relations with the 19th century initialise LGBT.

Those who refuse to accept the traditional gender identities and desire an equivocal alternative to the label of LGBT may refer them as queer. Queer, in ambiguous manner, can be used to refer all those who have somehow relevance to the initialise LGBTQI.

The queers are not particularly referred to as LGBT but they can be mentioned in the initialism of LGBTQI. The queers are some group of people or individual in the society who reject their traditional gender identity and instead hanker for a gender identity which is somehow have relevance with LGBT. Like the LGBT

community people queers are also not regarded as a heterosexual or cisgneder ones.

They receive the same sense of ignorance, generally, from the society and hatred towards them. Being an umbrella term, the gender queer, also referred as queer gender, can also be used as an adjective to refer those who go beyond the limits of the gender contrast or adopt queer gender. The queer gender can also be called as non-binary.

As LGBT the queer genders are also getting representations now a day when compared to the 19th century. In numerous countries people are accepting this distinct gender and are also helping the community to grow. With the maxim that a person can do of his own without hurting anybody's sentiment so the society is allowing their children to attain to this gender. In certain schools also the queer research education is conducted aiming at the young students and their teachers.

The present study is based on the secondary research. The study is devoted to represent and express the queerness and its forms. It embodies queerness in gender or sexuality. Furthermore, the study also focuses on the LGBT queer representation in different modern English novels. Like the mainstream LGBT community the queer gender also faces numerous complications while generating relationships.

The research studies these complications and discuss about the rights of these people in a society. In addition to this it also tries to portray human life, their action, words and reaction which can convey certain messages to the society for the purpose of information, education and entertainment. Further the study headed towards queer sexuality in India and also discusses about LGBT. Moreover the research also talks through the Queer theory, scientific, hereditary, genetic reasons behind the queer gender and LGBT and different laws on them. It furthers discusses about some male and female novelists of India and their comparison regarding this issue of concern. It seeks to find scientific research and solutions,

and suggestions from theses novelists. The study can be beneficial for further research on the queer gender or LGBT or LGBTQ and also LGBTQI. On the general purpose the study also serves to the common people of the society about the importance of LGBTQI.

The present study aims at an analysis of the representations of LGBTQ in Modern Indian English Novels. Particularly it aims to focus upon representations of LGBTQ, an analysis of the queer and the LGBT in the novels of select novelists. The present study will consider the significance of queer in LGBT, the problems of the queer and LGBT, the diversity of sexuality. The study will focus on the select novelists and their select novels in Modern Indian English literature to demonstrate the representations of LGBT in their novels.

- The researcher has selected the writers like R. Raj Rao, Ghalib Shiraj Dhalla, Abha Dawesar, and Mala Kumar from Indian English Literature.

B. The topic that the researcher has selected for his research work is not being found repeated or any other topic of theme has not been so far attempted

C. The synopsis of the proposed researcher contained the following points

01. Title of the research proposal

"REPRESENTATIONS OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER QUEER IN MODERN INDIAN ENGLISH NOVELS"

02. Choice of the topic with reasoning or significance:

The queer people or the LGBT community have the fundamental right to live their life in their own way. Although it is considered as a modern culture it has relevance with the history. The ambiguous rationale behind this type of gender existence is somehow related with their genes. The parents along with the other society member must entertain this and stop neglecting. The LGBT community people must be given free air and privacy to live their life. They must be treated as a normal human being like those of homosexual or the cis-gender ones. The novelists in their research culminated that the LGBTQ community people must be given equal respects and rights as other people are receiving.

LGBT Queer People are deprived from society. There is no family bond among them. They are mistreated and discriminated in society. They are segregated from society due to their LGBTQ identities. The LGBTQ has been neglected. It is need to explore the representations of LGBTQ to extend the scope of the study of literature. The present study has its own significance on national as well as international level in modern globalised world which has no boundaries.

03. Statement of the Problem

The statement of the research could be that as the society or the world usually avoids LGBT community and moreover the queers and intersex people, so the study attempts to aware the society about community's sufferings. Countries such as India prefer to stay away from this community and never entertain such things. They belief it is a sin, immoral act, and or misdeed which may ruin their culture

and tradition. Furthermore, the people of India, especially the elder ones, assume that the practice of this modern culture or making such kind of relationships will lead them towards suffering and punishments from God. Moreover, many people also think that this practice may bind their children to produce offspring and extend the generation. The LGBT community people or the queer gender also find themselves disconnected from their own family, friends or relatives.

They always receive a sense of loathing from the others and feel separated from the society or the mainstream community. These things bother them a lot and hence they fall sick or suicide. The research will help the society people and others related to it the importance being open to the community and accept the culture. It cites renowned researchers such as R. Raj Rao, Ghalib Shiraj Dhalla, Mala Kumar Abha Dawesar, and their concerns about the LGBTQ. It also incorporates the personal opinion of these writers.

The researcher has taken the following select writers and their select works for comparison and the representation of LGBTQ

- **Selected Writers and Selected Works :**
  01. R. Raj Rao
      01. Hostel Room - 131
  02. Ghalib Shiraj Dhalla
      01. The Exiles
      02. Ode to Lata
  03. Mala Kumar
      01. The Paths of Marriage
      02. The Circumstance of marriage
  04. Abha Dawesar
      01. The Miniplanner or The Three of us
      02. Babyji

04. Review of the Relevant Literature:

The review of the literature is based on the primary skimming of the books, research papers, internet sources on the relevant topics as representation of the LGBTQ in Indian modern English Novels

There is a need to make a small discussion on definition of LGBT queer before making review of chosen papers. Various researchers have interpreted LGBT queer. There has been much debate which is not surprising as to a specific LGBTQ community based on the relatively recent growth. LGBTQ is intended to highlight gender identity-based cultures and diversity of sexuality.

The term queer can be called to those who are no explosively referred to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender. The term is used against of those who desires for same sex. The LGBT can also be referred to the queer but to some extent. The LGBT queer and intersex people also are non-heterosexual and cisgender people.

The queers are actually those who refuse to adopt their gender by birth and desire for that which are mutually not accepted by a society. When referring to a queer theory, it can be said that queer theory is an approach to a cultural and literary study which does not incorporate traditional categories of sexuality and also gender. Queer theory can be referred to as a critical theory which made an appearance in the year of 1990-91. The theory of queer incorporates the reading of queer texts as well as the theorization of 'queerness' itself.

The theory indicates to a conceptualization that gender study is a study to recognize the inner oneself upon lesbian or gay. This is the close investigation of

the typical society's construction of a gender's acts and identities. Whereas the study of lesbian and gay is specialized about the natural as well as unnatural behaviour of them with regard to the homosexual behaviour. The queer theory emphasizes on the different kind of sexual identity and activity that comes under the deviant as well as the normative category. There are many research studies conducted to determine whether homosexuality has any relevance with the hereditary or genetic issues. Many researchers say a person has no relevance with his or her past to adopt this community. They just desire for it or embrace while observing others. The researcher also found that there may some incident happened with a person in his or her past which made them choose this path of the life. A person to be of LGBTQ community may, sometime, have psychological impact.

On the hand, some researcher claims that the people belonging from LGBT community has biological origins for their sexualities. The reason behind their being lesbian or gay or bisexual or transgender or queer or intersex is that they have derived it from their hereditary. They do have genetic effects which made them log into the LGBTQ community or others like it. A research study says that a women or lesbian will always receive the trait from her father and in the similar manner a man or a gay will always receive the trait from his mother. There were and are many laws affecting the LGBTQ community people and it varies country or territory. The laws bind one to have the same-sex marriage and do not have any legal recognition of the marriage. Moreover, the laws also implemented the death penalty for the homosexual people. However, over the recent period of years there were many laws passed in support of the LGBT community. In the year of 1886, the Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885 in England allowed sexual relations between women which were also given Royal Assent by Queen Victoria. An Act of the United Kingdom parliament named as the Sexual Offences Act 1967 ceased to treat homosexuality as illegal. However it consents to the homosexual acts in private until the men or women attain the age of 21.

Similarly, in the recent time, the Supreme Court of India also passed a law allowing decriminalisation of gay sex among consenting adults. The representation of the LGBT queer is conducted by many novelist of India in their novels.

1. **R. Raj. Rao**

   R. Raj. Rao was born in Bombay, India. He earned a PhD in English from the University of Bombay in 1986 & received the Nehru centenary British Fellowship for his post doctoral research at centre of Caribbean studies, University of Warwick, UK. He works as professor and head of the English Department at University of Pune. Rao is openly gay.

   Novels –

   01)Hostel Room 131

   Hostel Room 131 is the story of two young men who fall in love with each other. This piece of Queer literature also focuses on the issues of homophobia. In Hostel Room 131 the main protagonist is Siddhartha, twenty-three year Bombay guy. Siddhartha meets Sudhir in Pune engineering College hostel. Sudhir is twenty- year -old guy. Siddhartha instantly falls in love with this stranger. In 'Hostel Room 131' R.Raj Rao focuses on gay relationship between Siddhartha and Sudhir and Guarav & Vivek.

2. **Ghalib Shiraj Dhalla:**

   Ghalib Shiraj Dhalla is an American writer. Dhalla's great – grandparents were Ismailis who immigrated to Kenya from India. He is most famous for his novel Ode to Lata published in 2002, that was adapted to a film in 2008 under the title The Ode. He also published the novels The Two Krishnas in 2011, which was released as The Exiles in India.

   1) **Ode to Lata (2002)**

The debut novel, Ode to Lata was published in 2002. It is the first novel of Dhalla which is navigating between more just a day job and active social life. The protagonist of novel is Ali. It is study of culture, religion, body image, racism, sex and friendship. It is a story of bisexual relationship.

2) The Exiles:

'The Exiles' is about homosexual man's extra marital relationship. The novel is a sensual and searing exploration of desire, infidelity and faith. The Exiles draws inspiration from archetypal Hindu mythology and romantic Sufi poetry, evoking unforgettable characters to explore how with a new world come new freedoms and with them, the choices that could change everything we knows about those we thought we knew, including ourselves. Pooja Kapoor, a betrayed wife and fallen in love with young Muslim man. Lonely and desperate for divine intervention, she is forced to confront painful truths about the past to make sense of the present. Narrated from the perspective of the wife, husband and lover, The Exiles is a classic tale of love and loss set in Kenya, India and Finally, Los Angeles.

3. Mala Kumar:

This is story of gender identity of women in India and American families. Mala Kumar is international development practitioner based out of New York City. She is grateful work and degrees paid off in landing her jobs for some of the most prestigious institutions in the world, including the United Nations. When not immersed in work or writing, you can find Mala exploring NYC's latest culturing adventure, in an intense workout at the gym, planning her latest international excursion, or blocking out the subtitles on the latest French film.

01)The paths of Marriage:

Lakshmi, a bright student who grew up in poverty, marries and immigrates to the United States from India to provide a better life for herself and her

family. Clinging to her cultural realities, she forces her American daughter, Pooja, into an arranged marriage, creating a rift of resentment. Pooja's daughter Deepa is an out lesbian to everyone but her family. The woman Deepa loves presents an ultimatum—come out to Pooja or break-up and Deepa is forced to comfort her greatest fear. Three generations of Indian and Indian – American women navigate the harsh slums of Chennai to the bustle of New York City, struggling through a cathartic generational collision to try to come together as a family.

02)The Circumstances of Marriage:

The Circumstances of Marriage follows three generations of Indian and Indian – American women from the harsh slums of Chennai to the whimsical streets of New Orleans to the bustle of New York City. Determined to provide her family a better life, Lakshmi immigrates to the United States from India. Scarred as much shaped by her past, she forces her daughter, Pooja to have an arranged marriage. When Pooja's daughter, Deepa must finally come out to Pooja as lesbian, these three dynamic women face a complicated and cathartic generation's collision. This unforgettable story is about building collective wisdom and empathy to move forward and to progress.

4. Abha Dawesar

Abha Dawesar born first January 1974 is an Indian – born novelist and visual artist writing in English. She is known for writing about themes of sexuality and interpersonal relationships. Dawesar was awarded a New York Foundation of Arts fiction fellowship and has won numerous awarded for her fiction. With her 2005 novel Babyji wining both the Lambda Literary Award for lesbian Fiction and the stonewall Book Award. She currently lives in New York City.

1) Babyji

It is a novel by Abha Dawesar first published in 2005. Set in 1980's Delhi, India, it recounts the coming of age and the sexual adventures and fantasises of 16 year –old bespectacled school girl, the only child of a Brahmni family. The three simultaneous "affairs", she has in the course of the novel are all secrete and, all with members with her own gender: two with older women and with a classmate.

2) The Three of Us

The Three of Us, Abha Dawesar's debut novel, explicitly explores the sexuality of the happy-gay- lucky Andre Bernard a 24 -year – old Manhattan banker, and his affairs with his boss and most of the characters. It is bisexuality entering your drawing room without announcing itself as queer.

05. Research Question

While conducting the research, it had undergone many questions for inquiry. The questions may accumulate as:

- What is the initialism LGBT?
- What is the letter 'Q' in LGBTQ?
- What difference can be drawn between the LGBT and the queer?
- What is the significance of queer in LGBT?
- What could be the denotation of the term 'non-binary'?
- What could be the result of existence of LGBT community in a country like India?
- Are the people belonging from this community can easily live their life?
- What kind of problems the queers and the LGBTs face in this type of society?
- What conclusion can be drawn from the perception of the Indian novelists regarding the LGBT or the queers?
- To what respect such community people gain identity and attentiveness from the society?

06. Objectives of the Study:

Present study aims to explore the representation of LGBTQ in Indian select Novels. So the present study aims at the study of representations and comparison of LGBTQ in select novels. The researcher will concentrate on the following objectives.

- To Study the representation of LGBTQ in select novels
- To find out features of select novels
- To promote the LGBT community in a country like India and worldwide.
- To draw an analysis of the queer and the intersex people.
- To study the difference between queer and the LGBT.
- To draw a comparative analysis between LGBT or LGBTQ or LGBTQI.
- To refer to the representation of LGBT queer in the different modern English novels based on India.
- To emphasize gender sexuality among the LGBT community.
- To comprehend the psychology behind the set of people referring to LGBT people.
- To make an analysis on the hereditary and genetic reasons behind the personality of this people.
- To analyze what sort of difficulty they have to face

07. Hypothesis of the Research

After conducting the research work the following hypothesis can be drawn:

- The novels of R. Raj Rao, Ghalib Shiraj Dhalla, Mala Kumar, Abha Dawesar represent LGBT Identities and thereby one can understand the typical human condition prevailing in the society.

08. Research Methodology

The researcher had to undergo many circumstances in order to conduct this research. The research took many other findings of primary researches, to refer to, which has relevance with the title. It also incorporated enabling review time frame, search for paper validation which relates to the content of LGBT queer, selections and assessing journals for collection and processing of data. The researcher will use the interpretative, analytical and comparative methods will use for the present research work. Data will be collected from various renowned libraries. The focus will be on the close reading of the primary and secondary sources available on the subject. Electronic sources like websites may also be used for data collection. Moreover the study also consulted different English novels wrote by the Indian writers like R. Raj Rao, Ghalib Shiraj Dhalla, Mala Kumar Abha Dawesar.

09. Chapter Scheme :

Introduction

The tentative chapter scheme of the research work is as follows:

Chapter I) Theoretical Framework of LGBT

Chapter II) Sexual Diversity in the Novels of R. Raj Rao and Abha Dawesar

Chapter III) Dimensions of Gender Identity in the Novels of Ghalib Shiraj Dhalla, and Mala Kumar

Chapter IV) Comparative Perspective of LGBT Identities

Chapter V) Conclusion

10. Conclusion

The Researcher suggested that there must be an acceptance from the society for the diversity of sexuality in genders found in their children. Help the so-called different thinking genders to form their own generations and extend it with the help of Science.

The thesis will be concluded with the detailed bibliography of the sources used during the study

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